

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL  
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY  
September 3, 2025

The Academic Council met at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 3, 2025, via Teams videoconferencing technology, with Dr. Lisa Zagumny, presiding.

**The following members of the council were present:**

Dr. Thomas Payne  
Dr. Allen MacKenzie  
Dr. Daren Snider  
Dr. Darron Smith  
Dr. Jim Baier  
Dr. Brian O'Connor  
Dr. Yi Peng  
Dr. Hyewon Park  
Dr. Melissa Comer  
Dr. Christy Killman  
Dr. Alfred Kalyanapu  
Dr. Syed Rafay Hasan  
Dr. Kexin Xu  
Mr. Joshua Field  
Dr. Scott Christen  
Dr. Ann Manginelli

Dr. Jennifer Mabry  
Dr. Stacey Browning  
Ms. Megan Atkinson  
Dr. Amy Hill  
Dr. Linda Null  
Dr. Ka Grimes  
Dr. Krystal Kennedy  
Dr. Michael Olsen  
Dr. Amber Spears  
Mr. Jimmy Guadalupe  
Ms. Abby McCulley  
Ms. Presley Elliot

**Others present were:**

Dr. John Liu  
Dr. Julie Baker  
Dr. Sharon Huo  
Dr. Bedelia Russell

**The following members of the council were absent:**

Professor Kimberly Winkle  
Dr. Jennifer Shank  
Dr. Mike Gotcher  
Dr. Lee Ann Shipley  
Dr. Mark Creter  
Dr. Brenda Wilson  
Dr. Mustafa Rajabali  
Ms. Maya Seitz

## **SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of Minutes of April 9, 2025, meeting

Policy 274 Graduate Assistantships

College of Business Repeal of MBA Program Dismissal Policy

Policy 220-Instructional and Assignment use of Artificial Intelligence (Informational Only)

Policy 207- Tenured Faculty

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Dr. Scott Christen MOVED approval and Dr Christy Killman SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Approval of the Minutes of April 9, 2025, Meeting**

Dr. Scott Christen MOVED approval and Dr. Christy Killman SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Policy 274 Graduate Assistantships**

Dr. Julie Baker stated that a committee of GSEC members met via Teams during the 2024-2025 academic year to review Policy 274. Revisions to the current policy are recommended and are provided to the GSEC for review and approval. After a little discussion, Dr. Darron Smith MOVED approval and Dr. Christy Killman SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **College of Business Repeal of MBA Program Dismissal Policy**

Dr. Thomas Payne stated the College of Business (COB) Graduate Committee voted unanimously to repeal the existing MBA program policy on Quality of Work/MBA Requirements and replace it with the College of Graduate Studies' current policy on Required GPA and Dismissal for Unsatisfactory Performance. After a little discussion, Dr. Darron Smith MOVED approval and Dr. Christy Killman SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

### **Policy 220-Instructional and Assignment use of Artificial Intelligence (Informational Only)**

Dr. Bedelia Russell stated this policy describes standards and procedures for the use of Artificial Intelligence technology. This policy applies to the use of Artificial Intelligence, including Generative Artificial Intelligence, for instructional and/or assignment purposes. This policy does not apply to the use of artificial intelligence tools, however defined, for research, in noninstructional settings, or for instructional and/or assignment purposes. No Vote.

### **Policy 207- Tenured Faculty**

Dr. Bedelia Russell stated this policy addresses ongoing performance evaluation and remediation of the tenured faculty, retention and transfer of tenure, tenure expiration and relinquishment, and termination of the tenured faculty. The significance of tenure, and the peer and administrative expectations for the award of it. A friendly amendment was indicated that section 8, number 3 B was basically saying the same thing as A. After a little discussion, Dr. Darron Smith MOVED approval and Dr. Christy Killman SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

**Such Other Matters**

There were no other such matters.

**Adjournment**

Dr. Lisa Zagumny MOVED approval and Dr. Scott Christen SECONDED. APPROVED unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Amy McCoy, Recorder

Documents on file with the minutes:

All documents presented at the meeting